

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-11, 13-20 and 22-35 were allowed; claims 39, 42, 43 and 51 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form; and claims 37, 38, 40, 41, 44-50 and 52-56 were rejected. Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 1-11, 13-20, 22-35 and for indicating the allowability of claims 39, 42, 43, 51. Allowable claims 39, 42, 43 and 51 have been placed into independent and include the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

By this Reply and Amendment, claims 39, 40, 42, 43 and 47-51 have been amended; claims 37, 38, 41, 46 and 52-56 have been canceled without prejudice; and claims 1-11, 13-20, 22-35, 39-40, 42-45 and 47-51 remain pending in the present application. All claim amendments are fully supported throughout the description and figures of the specification. No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, claims 37, 38 and 40 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over the Arutunoff reference, US Patent No.: 2,674,194, in view of the Shilman reference, RU 2162272 C1. This rejection is respectfully traversed based on at least the reasons provided in the previous Reply and Amendment. However, the rejection is believed moot in light of the claim amendments. Claims 37 and 38 have been canceled without prejudice, and claim 40 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 39.

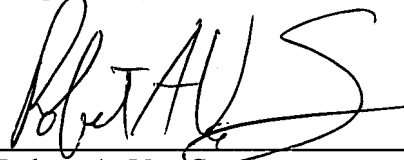
In the Office Action, claims 41, 45-50 and 52-56 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by the Arutunoff reference. This rejection is respectfully traversed based on at least the reasons provided in the previous Reply and Amendment. However, the rejection is believed moot in light of the claim amendments. Claims 41, 46 and 52-56 have been canceled without prejudice, claim 45 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 42, and claims 47-50 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 51.

In the Office Action, claim 44 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over the Arutunoff reference. This rejection is respectfully traversed based on at least the reasons

provided in the previous Reply and Amendment. However, the rejection is believed moot in light of the claim amendments. Claim 44 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 42.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the pending claims should be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert A. Van Someren', written over a horizontal line.

Robert A. Van Someren
Reg. No. 36,038

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PO Box 2107
Cypress, TX 77410-2107
Voice: (281) 373-4369